

19. WE CONFESS OUR FAITH IN GOD

After a **Litany of Supplication** in which we pray that God will accept the gifts that we have brought to God's Throne, we pledge our faith in God. The priest gives us the blessing of peace and says:

"Let us love one another that with one mind we may confess."

Two things are important as we confess our faith. First, the priest asks us to **love** each other. We cannot truly love God and offer gifts to Him if we hate our brother. As Jesus Himself tells us:

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

(Matthew 5:23-24)

Secondly, we must really believe in God in the same way, as if we were of **one mind**. St. Paul describes the Church as being together as one people of God. He says:

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all."

(Ephesians 4:4-6)

Underline each example that St. Paul gives of oneness in the Church.

Now we answer the priest saying that **we confess** God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the Holy Trinity. Then we proclaim our Faith by reciting the **Creed** — the Symbol of Faith, just as we did (or our godparents did for us) on the day when we were baptized.

Read through the Creed carefully and in two or three key words, summarize each article in your own words.

SUMMARY

1. *I BELIEVE in one God the Father almighty,*

maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

2. *And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten,*

3. *begotten of the Father before all ages,*

4. *Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made;*

5. of one Essence with the Father, by whom all things were made;

6. who, for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven,

and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit, and the Virgin Mary, and became man.

7. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried,

And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures,

8. and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father;

9. and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead;

whose Kingdom shall have no end.

10. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;

who spoke by the prophets.

11. In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.

12. I look for the Resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Review

Let us review again how we came together to meet God and what we have seen and heard and done so far.

1. We gathered the Church — God's people — together.
2. We announced that we came together to meet God, and to offer Him our gifts and our thanks.
3. The Church prayed for everyone — for the whole world and for all of God's people.
4. We sang songs of joy and praise to God.
5. We met God Himself as Jesus Christ came to us in His Word — the Holy Gospel.
6. We received God's blessing of peace.
7. We heard God's Word in the readings from the Epistle and Gospel.
8. The priest explained God's message to us in the sermon.
9. We brought our gifts to God — the bread, wine, and water — our gifts of food and life as an offering of our own lives.
10. We again pledged our faith in God, as we first did when we were baptized. We did this together in love as one people of God who believe in Him in the same way or, with **one mind**.

Make a simple chart with stick figures and key words showing what has happened thus far in the Divine Liturgy. Make it on a long strip of paper and leave enough space (about as much as you need for the first half) for the last part of the Liturgy which we will study next.